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Fellowship Deadline Imminent
The deadline for the submission of applications to become a GSA Fellow is January 15th. Fellowship is recognition by peers for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership in GSA. Applicants need to have been a member of the Society for five or more years and be nominated by a current fellow of the same section. (Self-nominations are no longer permissible.) For more information, contact Fellowship Coordinator Laurie Johnson at (202) 842-1275 or ljohnson@geron.org.

Incoming GSA President Outlines Changes for Year Ahead
Search for Executive Director Tops Agenda

GSA members and staff accepted the November 13th, 2007 resignation letter from Carol A. “Cookie” Schutz, executive director, with great sadness and boundless gratitude for her service. Dr. Roger McCarter read Carol’s letter at the 60th Annual GSA Meeting in San Francisco on November 18th, 2007. His reading of Carol’s letter was followed by a long and heartfelt standing ovation.

Carol is a primary force in the nurture, stabilization and impressive current growth of the Society. Her success is a tribute to her capacity to foster and sustain meaningful relationships with every staff member and GSA member over time. She offers each of us:
- A home base and meaningful inclusion in a field larger than our individual contributions
- A personal identity within the larger organization because she never forgets our personal stories and professional contributions
- A context or historical framework for exploring current issues facing the Society

Carol is our kin-keeper in the truest sense of the word. GSA Council members will always cherish her frequent emails letting us know when our members are facing illness, loss or bereavement. She offers herself and her willingness to listen to each of our twenty-four staff members. She never fails to respond promptly and thoroughly to every council member’s request for information. Her inspiring lasting relationships create invaluable connections among members, staff and partnering organizations. Carol personalizes an increasing large, diverse multidisciplinary organization while never letting us forget our personal niche and contributions.

Continued on page 2

Executive Director Bids Farewell

As was announced at the GSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, I stepped down as GSA executive director at the end of December. My many years with GSA, especially the past 14 as executive director, have been exciting and challenging. I have seen the Society grow from two offices in St. Louis, MO to a multi-million dollar enterprise in Washington, DC. I count myself fortunate for having had the opportunity to work with and know so many of the visionary leaders who led the way in creating and expanding the field of gerontology and for the front-row seat from which I watched it unfold.

And I am proud that we — members and staff — have lived up to those visions, with GSA well positioned to increase its importance and expand its reach in the years ahead. The Society has made great progress. It moved to new offices; it upgraded its membership communication technologies; its two units — the National Academy on an Aging Society and AGHE — are prospering; it is about to close an arrangement that will strengthen its journals; it is involved in several important projects, including major initiatives on civic engagement and geriatric social work; it will soon launch a state-of-the-art website; it continues to be the major annual meeting in gerontology (we had a record 4,012 attendees this year); and it is financially sound with reserves on which to expand its services and programs.

I will miss the many friends I have made through the years. To them and to all the members and staff of GSA, I send my sincere thanks. They come to GSA with great energy and a commitment to serve and their work over the years has made GSA the leadership organization it is today. It was a privilege to work with them all during my extraordinary GSA journey.
A record-breaking 4,012 people descended upon the San Francisco Hilton and Towers for GSA’s 60th Annual Scientific Meeting from November 16th – 20th. Over 500 separate sessions took place over the five day event, which included 1,223 individual posters.

The exhibit hall was packed with 114 booths and the hotel’s rooms were filled to capacity. Over two dozen members of the media reported from the press room (a five-year high) and many more conducted phone interviews with presenters. Thanks to news distribution services like UPI and Health Day News, research from the convention reached papers nationwide. See page 3 for a list of members who received coverage. The magazine Tradeshow Week also featured GSA as their “show of the week.”

Photo highlights can be found on the middle four pages of this issue.

Special note: The Call for Papers for the 2008 Annual Meeting will shortly be available both in the mail and on GSA’s website. Visit www.agingconference.com to download the abstract submission form. As usual, the deadline for the receipt of all abstracts is March 15th.

Carol’s GSA signature is her passionate commitment to our Emerging Scholars and Professional Organization (ESPO). Very early in her career, Carol recognized the future of the field, our science, research translation and education depend upon a strong student and AGHE faculty voice. Her personal commitment to ESPO members as individuals enriched collegial relationships and ultimately, the fields of gerontology and geriatrics.

It is appropriate to honor Carol’s lifetime contributions to GSA with the Carol A. Schutz ESPO Scholarship Fund for ESPO members to present and actively participate in annual meetings. GSA Council has voted unanimously to make an initial contribution to the Fund. All GSA individual members and AGHE institutional members are encouraged to contribute to the fund through the GSA office. Carol will be notified of all donors and scholarship recipients on an ongoing basis.

As incoming President during a challenging time of change, I want to offer certain assurances. To ensure an immediate smooth transition, Linda Harooytan, deputy director of GSA, will work with Carol through this year, and Linda will serve as interim or acting executive director as of January 1, 2008.

As a national search for new leadership will be a transparent process with full representation of all GSA voices. Roger McCarter and I assured full participation in the process for our twenty-four outstanding, highly committed and professional staff. Staff will select their own representative to the Search Committee. I will appoint a Search Committee Chair. The Search Committee of about nine members will appropriately represent the four sections, AGHE, ESPO, the National Academy and current GSA officers and staff. Search Committee members will include senior and junior active members willing to assure a timely process. For obvious immediate reasons, GSA members with 2008 Program Committee responsibilities should abstain from Search Committee responsibilities.

The Search Committee will begin its work with a review and possible consultation leading to the development of an executive director job description. We must agree on a leadership role to take us forward as an increasingly diverse, blended discipline and international professional research and education association. The hiring of some staff positions may delay until a new executive director has been selected.

I will appreciate your trust in our capacity as a dynamic and mature organization to continue to thrive in tribute to Carol’s longstanding leadership. I welcome all input on this process, and I encourage you to email or call me with your suggestions for the process and selection of search committee members. Please email me at lp@geri.duke.edu or call toll-free at 800-646-2028.
Cutler Heads to New Post in CA
The Motion Picture & Television Fund (MPTF), the premier health and social services charity of the entertainment industry, recently launched its Center on Aging, a best practice model that provides a comprehensive offering of services to seniors both at home and at the organization’s residential and community facilities. To lead the overall vision, strategic development, and implementation of this new venture, the organization has hired Neal E. Cutler as executive director. Cutler is a renowned expert in financial gerontology, a discipline he established two decades ago.

Harden Steps Up to New NIA Position
J. Taylor Harden, the National Institute on Aging’s (NIA) assistant to the director for special populations, has been appointed as the Institute’s acting deputy director, effective January 7, 2008. She has led the NIA’s efforts on minority health and health disparities since 1997 and has directed the development and, currently, the implementation of NIA’s Health Disparities Strategic Plan. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the 2005 GSA Task Force on Minority Issues Outstanding Mentorship Award and the NIH Director’s Award for her work on the Strategic Plan, and she serves as an advisor to multiple organizations on topics including geriatric nursing and diversity. Harden earned her PhD from the University of Texas in nursing and was a tenured associate professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio prior to joining the National Institutes of Health in 1994.

Hansen Honored with GIA Distinction
Previous Pollack Award winner Jennie Chin Hansen has been given Grantmakers in Aging’s 2007 John Feather Diversity Award. As the president elect of AARP, she has launched a national effort to draw attention to the needs of the United States’ growing diverse population. Hansen may be best known for founding the OnLok service, which assists elders with long-term care options.

Burgio’s Efforts Earn Carter’s Award
The Alabama REACH Intervention Project has been announced as the 2007 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Caregiving Award. The venture was the result of a partnership between the Alabama Department of Senior Services and the University of Alabama’s Center for Mental Health and Aging, which is directed by Louis Burgio.

Members Spearhead South America Trip
Keren Brown Wilson and Gloria Cavanaugh of the Jessie P. Richardson Foundation are inviting their GSA colleagues to join them on a unique trip to multiple South American locations. At each of the stops, the group will meet with local professionals in the field of aging and learn how these societies provide financial security and health and care options for their older citizens. For more information, visit www.jfrfoundation.org or call Patience Tolentino at (503) 408-4756.

Colleague Connected!
This month’s $25 amazon.com gift certificate winner: Karen Josephson
She became eligible after referring new member Susan Davies. The winner was randomly selected using randomizer.org. For more details on the Colleague Connection promotion, which includes a chance to win free lodging at the annual meeting, visit www.geron.org/ColleagueConnection.htm

New Publication by Members

Members in the News
> Boston University’s Thomas Perls was recently featured on “CBS Sunday Morning” in a feature on human longevity.
> The September issue of The Washingtonian contained an in-depth interview with Gene Cohen of The George Washington University. He discussed his research on creativity and aging.
> Stephanie Studenski of the University of Pittsburgh was quoted in both The Washington Post and The New York Times about research she presented at the Annual Meeting. The study discovered that people who walk fast may outlive their slower counterparts.
> Robert Butler’s keynote address from the Annual Meeting was covered in a Dow Jones Marketwatch article on November 28th.
> Daphna Gans of the RAND Corporation was quoted in a late November USA Today article based on research she unveiled at the Annual Meeting. Her investigations found that people who treated their elderly parents well were then likely to receive the same treatment from their own children.

> USA Today also recently featured comments from Natalia Gavrilova of the University of Chicago. Research she presented at the Annual Meeting discovered that U.S. women ages 55 and older are enjoying sex more than women the same age a decade ago.
> Madonna Harrington Meyer and Pamela Herd drew coverage for the Annual Meeting by publishing an op-ed piece titled “Can the private market handle long-term care?” in the November 16th edition of the San Francisco Chronicle.
> Several papers picked up an Annual Meeting-based HealthDayNews wire story quoting husband and wife team Leonard Gavrilov and Natalia Gavrilova. Their research found that keeping off excess weight in youth, farming, and fathering a large number of offspring all can help men live past a century.
> The UK Telegraph quoted University of Southern California researcher Elizabeth Zelinski in an article on research she presented at the Annual Meeting. Her study, based on the Posit Science Brain Fitness Program found that doing the right kind of brain exercises may improve an elderly person’s memory.
Colorado Research to Improve Care Coordination (CRICC),

a multidisciplinary VA health services research program at the Denver VAMC, is recruiting for a Senior Health Services Research Scientist at or above the GS 14, Associate Professor, level in the area of institutional and behavioral change. The successful applicant will hold a PhD in psychology, sociology, anthropology, or a related discipline and have extensive experience leading research projects and obtaining grant funding in the area of institutional and behavioral change. Past or current VA HSR&D funding is very desirable, as is a background in qualitative research methods. The successful candidate will collaborate as a senior investigator with other CRICC researchers and pursue an independent research agenda.

CRICC is a dynamic research organization with active research in geriatrics, palliative care, cardiology, health economics, biostatistics, and quantitative methodology. The Denver VAMC is closely affiliated with the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, where the candidate will have an academic appointment.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the University of Colorado are equal opportunity employers. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Interested candidates should send CV in confidence to Evelyn.Hutt@uchsc.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:
POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING IN DEMOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS OF AGING

With support from the NIA, the University of Chicago offers one postdoctoral fellowship through its Center on the Demography and Economics of Aging for the 2008-2009 academic year. The goal of these postdoctoral fellowships is to train skilled, engaged, committed new practitioners and new scholars who will make use of and contribute to the fields of demography and economics of aging by engaging in basic and applied research and policy making and analysis.

These NIA fellowships carry a stipend, health insurance, computing support and travel support, and are renewable with acceptable progress. NORC at the University of Chicago also provides opportunities to supplement the stipend. Candidates must be interested in demography or the economics of aging and must have completed their Ph.D. in 2008. Fellowships are restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest, a statement outlining their research agenda, two letters of recommendation, and a sample of written work or a recent publication. Previous research in demography or the economics of aging is not necessary; however, a future commitment is.

Please send application materials by February 1, 2008 to:
Kathleen E. Parks
Administrative Director
Center on the Demography and Economics of Aging
The University of Chicago
1155 E. 60th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

For more information, please contact Kathleen Parks at 773-256-6302 or by email at parks-kathleen@norcmail.uchicago.edu.

University of Minnesota
School of Nursing

SEEKING NURSING FACULTY
TO EXPLORE, ENGAGE, EXCEL

The University of Minnesota School of Nursing invites applications for tenured or tenure-track positions at the Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor level.

We seek faculty who share our vision of preparing nurse leaders to improve health care through research, evidence-based education, practice and community service. We welcome candidates who are prepared to exercise leadership in a diverse, collegial and interprofessional environment at this top research-intensive university. Based on expertise and interest, new faculty will join our Adult and Gerontological Health co-operative.

See position description and apply online at www.nursing.umn.edu/Employment/Faculty/home.html. Include cover letter and CV with online application.

For more information about the School of Nursing or faculty positions, contact:

Erica Goetzman, JD
Executive Assistant to the Dean
University of Minnesota School of Nursing
612-624-5959, goetzman@umn.edu
www.nursing.umn.edu

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
IOM Outlines Future of Disabilities
To better understand disability in the United States, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Education, and the National Institutes of Health asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to assess the current situation and provide recommendations for improvement, which culminated in the report The Future of Disability in America. The committee reviewed the developments since two previous IOM reports on disability, analyzed a number of shortcomings in the nation’s disability policies and programs, and raised serious questions about how individuals and society will cope with the challenges of disability. This report concluded that immediate action is essential for the nation to avoid harm and to help people with disabilities lead independent and productive lives. It can be viewed and purchased at the National Academy Press website at http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11898.

HHS Releases New Health Literacy Tool
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released a new health literacy tool for people who serve older adults. The Quick Guide to Health Literacy and Older Adults is designed to provide useful strategies and suggestions to professionals who work with older adults to help bridge the communication gap between professionals and older adults. In a national assessment of health literacy, only three percent of the older adults surveyed were found to be proficient in health literacy. Persons with limited health literacy have more adverse health outcomes including less frequent use of preventive services, higher hospitalization rates, and more emergency room visits. For older Americans, difficulties with health literacy can complicate already challenging health problems since as many as 80 percent of older Americans have at least one chronic disease. For more information visit: http://www.health.gov/communication/literacy/olderadults/default.htm.

NIA’s Web Training Curriculum Now Available
The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has just released the Toolkit for Trainers, a free, downloadable training curriculum that instructors can use to help older adults find reliable health information online. It comes with lesson plans, student handouts, web-searching exercises, and glossaries which instructors can customize to fit students’ skill levels and interests. An introductory video acquaints trainers with the curriculum, and trainer tools help instructors gear their teaching toward the older learner. See www.nihseniorhealth.gov/toolkit for complete information.

Comprehensive Database Updated Online
The Silver Book, from the Alliance for Aging Research, is a searchable database that is constantly updated and expanded in order to highlight the latest research and data on the burden of chronic disease and the value of investing in medical research. Visit www.silverbook.org to view this site, which contains more than 1,100 facts, statistics, graphs, and data from more than 200 agencies, organizations, and experts.

AOA Reports on Hispanic Elders
By 2028, the Hispanic population aged 65 and older is projected to be the largest racial/ethnic minority in this age group. “A Statistical Profile of Hispanic Older Americans Aged 65+,” a new report from the Administration on Aging (AOA), covers various aspects of this growing population, including education levels, living arrangements, access to medical care, and more. See www.aging society.org/aging society/publications/public_policy/hispanic.pdf for the full version.

Blog Launched in Fight Against Ageism
The Ageism In America blog is the latest addition to the newly redesigned International Longevity Center (ILC-USA) website. The blog tracks the latest news and research on age discrimination in the United States. By adding their own comments, visitors to the site join ILC-USA staff and guest experts in an ongoing conversation, pushing age discrimination practices into the public discourse. Recent experts include John Krout from the Gerontology Institute at Ithaca College and Erdman Palmore, editor of The Encyclopedia of Ageism. Visit www.ilcusa.org/pages/ageism.php to participate.

AJN Releases Latest in ‘Try This’ Series
The American Journal of Nursing has announced the newest two entries in its “How To Try This” series. To read or view the articles and videos featured this month, go to www.NursingCenter.com/AJNolderadults.

The Mini-Cog • By Deirdre Mary Carolan Doerflinger PhD, CRNP
As the population grows and the proportion of older adults increases, the incidence and prevalence of dementia are expected to increase dramatically. Health care providers’ outdated belief that confusion is a normal part of aging contributes to significant underrecognition of dementia in all settings. Early recognition and diagnosis are critical to carrying out best practices in the care of older patients. The Mini-Cog is a simple, effective, easily administered screening tool that can uncover cognitive impairment in its earliest stages. The tool consists of a three-item recall task and a simple clock-drawing task. The Mini-Cog takes only three to five minutes to administer and requires minimal training. For a free online video demonstrating the use of this tool, go to http://links.lww.com/A204. This video includes a demonstration of the Mini-Cog assessment and interpretation, as well as outlines a range of care plan considerations that will help patients and family members make comprehensive plans to maximize autonomy and safety.

Detecting Delirium • By Christine M. Waszynski MSN, APRN, BC
For patients and their loved ones, delirium can be a frightening experience. A fluctuating mental status is important to identify because it often signals a need for additional treatment. The Confusion Assessment Method (CAM) diagnostic algorithm enables nurses to assess for delirium by identifying the four features of the disorder that distinguish it from other forms of cognitive impairment. It can be completed in five minutes and is easily incorporated into ongoing assessments of hospitalized patients. For a free online video demonstrating the use of this tool, go to http://links.lww.com/A209. A video demonstrating the use of CAM in patients with and without an underlying dementia, and including Assessing and Managing Delirium in Older Adults with Dementia (that will be published in AJN’s January issue), will be available at that time.

“How to Try This” is a collaborative project of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at NYU’s College of Nursing and the American Journal of Nursing. Two topics from the series will be made available each month through December 2008 in cost-free, Web-based resources including demonstration videos and companion articles in the AJN.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY’S M.A. in GERONTOLOGY PROGRAM
This 36 hour program offers students knowledge and training in diverse areas of the fast-growing field of Gerontology. For convenience, all courses in the program meet once a week either on weekday evenings or Saturdays. A multi-disciplinary program by design, it works with students to tailor their educational experience to best meet personal and/or career training goals. The M.A. program accommodates people interested in all areas of this important specialty, as well as life-long learners interested in personal aging issues. NEIU is a state-supported commuter university serving approximately 12,000 students and is located at 5500 North St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. If you are interested and/or have any questions, feel free to contact the program coordinator at (773) 442-5846 or e-mail: l-hollissawyer@neiu.edu.
NIH Monies Call for Unique Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director’s Pioneer Award Program is designed to support individual scientists of exceptional creativity who propose pioneering – and possibly transforming approaches – to major challenges in biomedical and behavioral research. To be considered pioneering, the proposed research must reflect ideas substantially different from those already being pursued in the investigator’s laboratory or elsewhere. Biomedical and behavioral research is defined broadly in this announcement as encompassing scientific investigations in the biological, behavioral, clinical, social, physical, chemical, computational, engineering, and mathematical sciences. This RFA (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-08-013.html) announces a fifth competition for approximately five to ten new awards of $500,000 in direct costs per year for five years that will be made in Fiscal Year 2008. Awardees are required to commit the major portion (at least 51%) of their research effort to activities supported by the Pioneer Award.

NIH Director To Bolster New Innovators

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director’s New Innovator Award addresses two important goals: stimulating highly innovative research that has the potential for significant impact, and supporting promising new investigators. As part of NIH’s commitment to increasing opportunities for new scientists, it has created the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award to support a small group of exceptionally creative new investigators who propose bold new approaches that have the potential to produce a major impact on a broad area of biomedical or behavioral research. Applications are accepted from December 16, 2007 - January 16, 2008. Visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-08-014.html for more information.

Young Scientists Sought for IOF Funds

The International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF)-Servier Young Investigator Research Award, presented every two years to an osteoporosis researcher under the age of 40, aims to encourage young scientists to carry out high quality research. The award is supported by the Servier Research group in partnership with IOF; and awards euro 40,000 towards original research of significant value and international relevance in the field of osteoporosis. The project must contribute to ensuring that people with osteoporosis receive the best care possible. Applications for the IOF-Servier 2008 Young Investigator Research Award are being accepted until March 3, 2008. See www.iofbonehealth.org/health-professionals/iof-grants-awards.html for full details.

RWJF To Award Groundbreaking Physicians

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program fosters the development of physicians who will lead the transformation of America’s health care. These future leaders will conduct innovative research and work with communities, organizations, practitioners, and policy makers on issues important to the health and well being of all Americans. Up to 29 scholars will be selected in 2008 for appointments beginning in 2009. To be eligible, physicians must be committed to a career in academic medicine, health policy, or another career congruent with the program’s purposes and priorities of developing physician leaders; be highly regarded by those responsible for their clinical training; and plan to complete the clinical requirements of their residency/fellowship training by the date of entry into the program (except for surgeons). Scholars may not hold appointments as subspecialty fellows during their tenure in the program. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its territories. The application deadline in February 29, 2008 and more information is available at http://rwjscp.unc.edu.

Grants Aimed at Social Work Organizations

The Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW) has announced new training grants now available to National Association of Social Work (NASW) chapters and community-based organizations serving elders. IGSW, located at Boston University’s School of Social Work, was established through a grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies to advance social work practice with older adults and their families. As part of its efforts, IGSW is committed to the provision of state-of-the-art, low-cost professional education in aging so that social workers in every practice setting can develop the knowledge and skills they required to work with older adults. The Training Incentive Program (TIP) encourages providers of continuing education in social work to expand their offerings in geriatric education and training. It is critical that social workers working with older people enhance their skills. Additionally, specialized training in aging is becoming an increasingly important component of social work licensure in many states. The IGSW Training Incentive Program can help NASW chapters or community-based programs create innovative training opportunities for social workers in your area. TIP is a small grants program with the mission to enable NASW state chapters and social work education programs to initiate training in aging or expand existing efforts. IGSW will provide grant awards of $1,000 and free publicity for the training event in IGSW publications. For more information, see www.bu.edu/igsw.

Purpose Prize Nominations Reopened

Civic Ventures has announced the opening of nominations for the 2008 Purpose Prize, a major initiative that invests in Americans over 60 who are leading a new age of social innovation. The Purpose Prize provides five awards of $100,000 and ten awards of $10,000 to people over 60 who are taking on society’s biggest challenges. It’s for those with the passion and creativity to discover new opportunities, the experience to come up with practical solutions, and the determination to make lasting change. For the first time in 2008, nominees may include U.S. residents whose work is affecting the lives of people outside the U.S. as well as domestically. See www.purposeprize.org for full details. The nomination deadline is March 1, 2008.
The registration area was constantly busy. By the meeting's end, there were over 4,000 attendees.

< Past GSA presidents gathered prior to the opening session.

^ The registration area was constantly busy. By the meeting’s end, there were over 4,000 attendees.

< The opening reception gave GSA members a chance to catch up with one another.

< The International Longevity Center's Robert Butler provided the keynote address.

^ The International Longevity Center’s Robert Butler provided the keynote address.
Sessions and Special Events

^ President Roger McCarter was joined by international experts for the "Challenges and Opportunities of Global Aging, Part I" Symposium.

^ The Hilton’s corridors were lined with works from Art with Elders, a San Francisco-based program for older residents.

^ The ESPO wine and cheese reception continues to be one of the meeting’s most popular events.

^ Some conference-goers enjoyed the comedy of the Stagebridge Theater Company, which has been performing since 1978.
Over 1,200 posters were on display over the course of the five-day gathering.

Sessions and Special Events

McCarter handed over the reins to his successor, Lisa Gwyther, at the GSA Community Meeting.

GSA staffers (from L to R) Paul Stearns, Jackie Osborne, Jessica Clark, Latasha Peterson, Todd Kluss, and Greg O’Neill enjoyed a moment of levity at the exhibitors and sponsors reception.
The Exhibit Hall

The popular cyber cafe was a new feature for the 2007 conference.

Numerous hands-on demonstrations were offered at the hall’s 114 booths, including the Posit Science Brain Fitness program seen here.

The Closing Session

Eric Dishman of Intel headlined the meeting’s closing session.

< Local Arrangements Chair Darlene Yee [center] oversaw GSA’s first silent auction, which raised nearly $1,600.

< Program Committee Co-Chairs Richard Fortinsky and Helen Hazuda joined McCarter to conclude the record-breaking meeting.
The National Institute on Aging has just released the Toolkit for Trainers, a free, downloadable training curriculum that instructors can use to help older adults find reliable health information online. Available on the NIHSeniorHealth.gov website, the toolkit comes with lesson plans, student handouts, web-searching exercises, and glossaries which instructors can customize to fit students’ skill levels and interests. An introductory video acquaints trainers with the curriculum, and trainer tools help instructors gear their teaching toward the older learner. Check out the toolkit on the NIHSeniorHealth website at www.nihseniorhealth.gov/toolkit.

Funding Opportunities

Item from Don Griesmann’s Grant Opportunities in the AGHEExchange

The NEA Foundation Learning and Leadership Grants

The NEA Foundation is offering Learning and Leadership Grants to individuals and to groups. The grants provide opportunities for teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff to engage in high-quality professional development and lead their colleagues in professional growth. Grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes:

- Grants to individuals fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research.
- Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment.

All professional development must improve practice, curriculum, and student achievement. “One-shot” professional growth experiences, such as attending a national conference or engaging a professional speaker, are discouraged. Decisions regarding the content of the professional growth activities must be based upon an assessment of student work undertaken with colleagues, and must be integrated into the institutional planning process. Grant funds may be used for fees, travel expenses, books, or other materials that enable applicants to learn subject matter, instructional approaches, and skills. Recipients are expected to exercise professional leadership by sharing their new learning with their colleagues. The grant amount is $2,000 for individuals and $5,000 for groups engaged in collegial study.

Submission deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 15, every year; applications can be submitted at any time.

For more information, visit www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership_Guidelines.htm

If you are interested in receiving additional information on funding opportunities, about gerontological education, training, and research issues and resources, consider becoming an AGHE subscriber! The AGHEExchange, published four times during the academic year, includes the following sections: What Works, Conference Calendar, Resource Briefs, In and Around AGHE, Policy Page, New Member Profiles, Geriatric Education, and National & International News. Visit the AGHE website (www.aghe.org) for additional details.
Ball State University invites nominations and applications for the dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Technology. The dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of the college and reports to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The dean plans, directs, and coordinates the operational, personnel, budgetary, and student activities of the college and provides leadership and direction by working with chairpersons in the development and implementation of curricula, academic programs, strategic planning and development initiatives, and related activities.

The College of Applied Sciences and Technology is one of seven colleges in the university and offers programs at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral levels. The dean leads a talented faculty of over 120 in the departments of Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology, and Military Science; the schools of Nursing and Physical Education, Sport, and Exercise Science; and the Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology. For detailed information, visit the university website, www.bsu.edu, and the college website, www.bsu.edu/cast.

The college seeks a dean who has attained distinction in one of the disciplines of the college and who will provide leadership through a participatory management style in teaching, scholarly productivity, and service. The dean will lead and facilitate the strategic planning process for the college; evaluate academic curricula, activities, and units within the college; and promote the national visibility of college programs. The dean will act as fiscal agent for the college and allocate funds and resources in a manner that supports the mission of the college; provide leadership and maintain close contacts with external constituencies that promote the college’s activities and programs; and cultivate the procurement of external grants and opportunities for fund raising. In addition, the dean will support and promote excellence in all academic endeavors, including rigorous standards in the classroom; faculty recruitment, teaching, scholarly performance, and service; and salary, promotion, and tenure decisions.

Minimum qualifications: an earned doctorate or other recognized terminal degree; demonstrated successful experience in university administration; overall qualifications that merit a faculty appointment as full professor with tenure in one of the units of the college; evidence of successful teaching in higher education; evidence of successful scholarly productivity; demonstrated successful experience with strategic planning; evidence of successful fiscal management.

Preferred qualifications: an earned doctorate in a discipline within the college or related to one in the college; demonstrated ability to be a creative and visionary thinker and inspire others to join in a unified vision for the college; demonstrated success in acquiring external funding or fund-raising; evidence of participatory leadership that includes faculty; evidence of an understanding of and commitment to both undergraduate and graduate education, including both classroom and distance education.

This is a twelve-month appointment. The dean serves at the discretion of the Provost and President. The dean’s performance will be periodically evaluated by the Provost with input from the college faculty and other constituencies. Upon appointment, the dean will be granted tenure and the rank of full professor in the appropriate academic unit of the college. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Applicants and nominees should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, any other materials of support, and contact information for five references to: Dean Roger Lavery, Chairperson, Search Committee for Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Technology, Office of the Provost, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306. Review of applications will begin December 1, 2007, and will continue until the position is filled. The position is available July 1, 2008.

Ball State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.
The September issue of Gerontology News reported that GSA has been closely monitoring activities related to the reorganization of the peer review process at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). On November 9, 2007, NIH Deputy Director Raymard Kington and NIH Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Director Toni Scarpa welcomed 138 representatives from various organizations to further discuss the topic. The University of Minnesota’s LaDora Thompson attended on GSA’s behalf. The most recent restructuring of the peer review process began in 2000 with the report of the Panel on Boundaries of Scientific Review (PBSR). During 2007 there were six scheduled Open House workshops to evaluate the current alignment of CSR’s Integrated Review Groups (IRG) and study sections. The workshop on November 9th was one of the six workshops and the second workshop focused on Integrated Biology.

The attendees were divided into four breakout groups (Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Mechanisms I and II; Preclinical/Translational, and Clinical) and charged to provide responses and input on two central questions. Following the breakout sessions, the groups joined and shared their responses. (Thompson participated in the Cellular, Molecular, and Developmental Mechanisms I group.)

What will be the most important questions and/or enabling technologies you see forthcoming within the science of your discipline in the next 10 years?

As in the earlier meeting focused on Integrated Biology on August 24th, 2007, integration was one of the identified challenges of the next decade — the integration of molecular and cellular information into systems biology, integration among multiple organs in disease and health, integration of physical and behavioral approaches to health, integration across disciplinary boundaries (particularly between developmental and integrative biology), integration of multiple models (lower organisms to humans), and integration of basic science and clinical practice. The group identified several other areas including biomedical informatics, regulatory mechanisms, in vivo imaging, functional consequences of genetics and epigenetics in biology and disease, genomics, proteomics, and translation that span basic research to clinical research. Development of new technologies included nanotechnology for quantitative measures, in vivo and dynamic imaging, real time sensing, biomarkers and behaviors to formulate non-invasive predictors for early disease and treatment, high-thru-put analytical methods, database sharing and analysis.

Is the science of your discipline, in its present state, appropriately evaluated within the current study section alignment? Suggestions?

It was generally thought that the current alignment is not attuned to integrated approaches, crosscutting studies, or high-risk ideas. Overlapping study sections, in particular, can provide poor coverage; in other cases similar applications are distributed to many different study sections, losing the advantage of knowledgeable comparative review. Specific examples were cited in the areas of aging, alcohol, immunology and toxicology. There was opportunity to indicate that in the field of aging there are two current study sections (CMAD and AGS), but a third study section would be advantageous to the field of aging.

Face-to-face review meetings were emphasized as the best way to review whereas the use of mail, phone, videoconference, or asynchronous electronic discussion was not highly favored. The key to good peer review is to have excellent reviewers which at times are difficult to achieve. Lastly, CSR has increased the efficiency of the peer review process, notably by shifting to electronic submissions. CSR will work to shorten the review cycle, moving from one to three cycles of applications per year, with the promise that all applications will be scored within 3 months. CSR is also testing a shorter application (perhaps half the current 25 pages).

**GAO: FDA leaves seniors out of drug trials**

Drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not necessarily be safe and effective for seniors, a new report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said. The reason is because seniors are not always included in clinical trials. In some cases, selected drug trials restricted the participation of seniors, according to the report, “Prescription Drugs: FDA Guidance and Regulations Related to Data on Elderly Persons in Clinical Drug Trials.” Representative Henry A. Waxman (D-CA), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, released the report’s findings. The FDA also has failed to clarify important requirements in the drug evaluation process for seniors, the report said. For example, the FDA does not require medical officers to determine whether a sufficient number of seniors participated in drug trials. See the full GAO report at www.oversight.house.gov. However, In response to a request made by the Alzheimer’s Association, the FDA agreed to expand its Patient Consultant and Patient Representative programs to include individuals directly affected by Alzheimer’s disease in the drug review process. The request from the Alzheimer’s Association arose from extensive conversations with families across the country struggling with the disease who wanted some say in the decisions about potential treatments.

**Roherty Appointed to Top NASUA Post**

Martha A. Roherty has been appointed as executive director of the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). She was selected after an extensive national search led by the Association’s executive committee and board of directors and will assume her duties in January 2008. Roherty joins NASUA with over 20 years of public policy experience focused solely on state public policy. Her professional background includes extensive work in state health reform, long-term care, and disabilities issues. Most recently she served as executive director of the National Medicaid State Directors Association and the Center for Workers with Disabilities at the American Public Human Services Association.

**HHS Plan Gives AOA Heavy Consideration**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has published its strategic plan for financial years 2007-2012. This document provides a comprehensive overview of HHS’ priorities and activities for the next five years and highlights the significant role the U.S. Administration on Aging is playing within the department to improve the health and well-being of older people and their family caregivers. For more details and a copy of the plan, visit http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsplan/2007/.
Ball State University seeks a creative and committed leader to provide direction and oversight to all programs and operations of the Institute. Some of these areas include: academic degrees, certificate programs, and minors in wellness management and applied gerontology; wellness and gerontology services to the university community and off-campus constituencies; external funding procurement related to wellness and gerontology; and Institute promotion through research, scholarly writing, presentations, and leadership in professional organizations. This position is a full-time administrative position available July 1, 2008.

Students at this unique Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology are taught in an immersive learning environment; i.e., working and learning in community-based programs designed to provide wellness-enhancing services across the life span. Programs coordinated through the Institute and funded by community partners include the Community Center for Vital Aging (innovative service center), employee wellness and school wellness initiatives, and a wellness media project. All programs are evaluated and results are disseminated locally and nationally through a variety of formats.

Minimum qualifications: earned doctorate from an institution of higher education in a wellness and/or gerontology-related field; at least five years of successful university experience, including teaching, supervising, and administration or equivalent experience in a wellness and/or gerontological setting; record of success in external funding; extensive knowledge of the theory and practice of wellness and/or gerontology; demonstrated ability to lead, manage, and coordinate an interdisciplinary academic department; demonstrated scholarly activity in wellness and/or gerontology; effective verbal and written communication skills; record of activity and participation in professional organizations and programs related to wellness and/or gerontology at regional or national levels; firm commitment to academic excellence.

Preferred qualifications: over five years of successful university experience, including teaching, supervising, administration, and partnership development or equivalent experience in a wellness and/or gerontological setting; experience with federal funding agencies; experience with immersion learning and interdisciplinary program development; knowledge of and scholarly activity in both wellness and gerontology practice.

Send letter of application, vita, and four letters of recommendation to: Dr. David Haber, Chairperson, Search Committee, Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. (Tel: 888-WELL-BSU; Email: drider@bsu.edu) Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. (www.bsu.edu/wellness)

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National Institute on Aging
Remember July 18th Deadline for Technical Assistance Workshop!

"Taking the Next Step: Technical Assistance Workshop" is a 2-day interactive forum for pre and post-doctoral students and recent recipients of Ph.D., M.D. or related doctoral degrees who are members of groups under-represented in aging research. During the workshop, NIA staff and associated faculty members will present information and provide technical assistance on applying for NIA grants. Participants in the workshop, depending on career stage, will have an opportunity to make podium presentations of current or planned research projects, receiving feedback from peers and NIA staff. The Technical Assistance Workshop will be held immediately prior to the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, in Washington, DC on November 20th and 21st. Participation is by competitive application.

Applicants: Applicants may be new to the NIH application process or embarking on an independent program of research. Investigators who demonstrate a commitment to research careers related to minority aging issues are encouraged to apply. Transportation and lodging expenses will be provided for all selected applicants. First-time applicants will be given priority and a modest payment for preparation and participation. Applications must be completed and submitted by July 18, 2008 (postmarked). A recent C.V. must accompany all applications. Individuals who have conducted funded research for more than 5 years, are considered established investigators and/or are former Summer Institute participants are ineligible. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents. To request an application or additional information, please contact Ms. Jamie Gulin at 301-496-0765 or by e-mail at gulinj@nia.nih.gov.
The start of a new year brings the start of a new semester for many of us. And subsequently, the start of a new semester means that we will begin to work on papers and projects for our classes or research. With an abundance of resources available that cover a wide range of topics and disciplines, it can be challenging to find information specifically related to aging and gerontology. Here are some great resources that you can access in order to assist you with your search for pertinent information. These resources are made available through AARP.org. For more information about these resources, contact ageline@aarp.org.

AARP Policy and Research (www.aarp.org/research)

This website contains the research results and policy analyses conducted or sponsored by AARP.

Ageline Database (www.aarp.org/ageline)

This database contains abstracts for 600 journal titles in addition to books, chapters, research reports, dissertations, and videos dating back to 1978.

Internet Resources on Aging (www.aarp.org/internetresources)

This database contains information and links to over 900 websites that are specifically for and about older adults.

AgeSource Worldwide (www.aarp.org/research/agesource)

Clearinghouses, databases, libraries, directories, statistical resources, bibliographies and reading lists, texts, and web “metasites” that focus on aging are contained within this database. This database enables you to search for material in English, French, or Spanish.


This guide identifies some of the most commonly used acronyms in the field of aging and provides some brief information about them.

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to serve as the 2007 ESPO Secretary. It has been an absolute pleasure! I proudly turn the position over to the very enthusiastic Marie McCormick at Fordham University.
Recognize those members who have made major contributions to our field by nominating them for Fellowship in The Gerontological Society of America. Honor those who have enriched our field with their leadership in research, education, and practice.

Applications are available now at www.geron.org/fellows.htm

To apply, candidates need to:

- be nominated by a current GSA Fellow of the candidate’s section; self nominations are no longer accepted;
- be a Regular Member in The Society for a minimum of 5 years;
- adhere to specified requirements made by each Section (please see application for complete listing of requirements);
- get an endorsement from ONE other Fellow of the sponsoring Section besides the nominating Fellow (both must be members in good standing);
- submit an ORIGINAL application;
- submit an ORIGINAL C.V.

Send nomination materials to Laurie Johnson at ljjohnson@geron.org no later than January 15, 2008 (this includes the endorsement letter). When emailing materials, they MUST be sent as attachments.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP:
A National Institute on Aging (NIH) Training Grant and the VA Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center accredited fellowship program trains M.D.’s and Ph.D.’s for academic careers in gerontology. M.D. and Ph.D. fellows are mentored in research skills and methodology in gerontology, exercise physiology, metabolism, nutrition, molecular/cell biology and genetics to prepare them as independent investigators. There are weekly research and clinical conferences, journal clubs and data meetings. M.D. fellows complete clinical training for certification in geriatric medicine. Correspondence: Andrew P. Goldberg, M.D. (agoldber@grecc.umaryland.edu), University of Maryland, c/o Baltimore VA Medical Center, 10 N. Greene St. (BT/18/GR), Baltimore, MD 21201.

The University of Maryland is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

RAND is pleased to announce the 15th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 7-10, 2008. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 7-8) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics and Epidemiology of Aging (July 9-10). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties. We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2008 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations. Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site: www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/. For additional information, please contact Diana Malouf (malouf@rand.org).

RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health.